



Arbovirus Surveillance Program

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Infectious Diseases Laboratory Division

State Laboratory Institute

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Due to the introduction of West Nile virus (WNV) to the northeastern United States, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has expanded its arbovirus surveillance program to include a statewide surveillance system for WNV. Following the guidelines formulated by the U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) DPH has increased surveillance of birds, mosquitoes and other animals, as well as increased human disease surveillance throughout the state. This plan includes enhanced mosquito trapping and testing as well as avian, animal and human surveillance and testing to identify WNV if it appears in Massachusetts. DPH has hosted meetings throughout the state for local health officials to update and advise them regarding surveillance and control of WNV.

Mosquito trapping began on May 29, 2000. Sixteen regular long-term sites in Plymouth, Bristol, Norfolk, Middlesex and eastern Worcester Counties have been trapped weekly using CDC light traps. The average number of *Culiseta melanura* from these sites is slightly below the 13-year daily average. A total of 81 mosquito pools have been tested, and all were negative for Eastern equine encephalitis virus (EEEV) as well as WNV. In addition, *Culex* breeding sites have been identified throughout the state and weekly trapping at these sites using gravid traps will begin next week. To enhance surveillance for WNV, regional mosquito control projects have also been supplied with gravid traps to collect *Culex* mosquitoes for arbovirus testing. Avian surveillance and testing has also been initiated. Since early May eleven dead birds have been submitted for testing. Five of these submissions were unsuitable for testing. Three were virus negative and three are pending.

Weekly arbovirus reports and informational material on WNV and eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) virus can be accessed at <http://www.state.ma.us/dph>.

The State of New York Department of Health today confirmed WNV in a pair of crows collected in Rockland County, New York. New York health officials stress that there have been no known cases of illness caused by WNV among humans this year.

Total number of mosquitoes analyzed to date: 695
Total number of virus isolates identified: 0

Mosquito Surveillance

		Cs mel	Cq per	Ae vex	Ae can	Cx pip	Virus(+) Pools
Brockton		1	0	0	0	0	0
Canton		37	0	4	5	4	0
Carver		20	0	0	11	0	0
Easton		14	0	0	26	25	0
Foxboro		63	0	2	10	0	0
Halifax		187	0	0	2	1	0
Hanover		44	0	0	0	1	0
Holliston		9	2	2	15	8	0
Kingston		82	0	0	0	2	0
Lakeville		4	0	0	0	0	0
New Bedford		9	0	0	0	26	0
Raynham		0	0	0	0	2	0
Rehoboth		6	0	0	6	2	0
Walpole		33	0	0	6	4	0
Westboro		9	0	0	7	0	0
Westport		3	0	0	1	0	0
Total by species		521	2	8	89	75	0